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## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Trump expected to shrink Grand Staircase-Escalante by half

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Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will propose cutting Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about half, according to an aide to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah).

President Trump is expected to follow the recommendation to shrink the monument from 1.2 million to 700,000 acres, Ron Dean, one of Hatch's Utah staffers, told the state Legislature's Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands yesterday.

Dean also confirmed an earlier indication from Zinke that Bears Ears National Monument will be altered to between 100,000 and 300,000 acres, down from its current size of 1.35 million acres ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 14).

Dean warned, however, that Congress would need to make permanent changes to the Antiquities Act to make sure future presidents cannot reverse any alterations Trump makes to the monuments.

"We are going to get a pingpong effect should the president lose and the wrong kind of occupant of the White House, who has a different view of what public lands in the West are all about," Dean said. "There is a substantial fear that, especially in Bears Ears' case, it would be even be larger than originally called for by President Obama."

Environmentalists and state Democrats panned the review process and said both Utah monuments have provided an economic boon for the surrounding areas.

"The fact that we're learning as much about the president's review from Sen. Hatch as we are from the White House shows that the real decisions about these monuments are being made in secret," said Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project (Brian Maffly, [Salt Lake Tribune](#), Nov. 14). — NS

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